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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 10/044,076 | 01/11/2002 | H. Ufuk Alpay | 064441.0223 | 6503 |
| 31625 | 7590 | 08-04-2004 | EXAMINER | |
| BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. PATENT DEPARTMENT 98 SAN JACINTO BLVD., SUITE 1500 AUSTIN, TX 78701-4039 | | | MOHAMEDULLA, SALEHA R | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 1756 | | |

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Advisory Action | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/044,076 | ALPAY ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Saleha R. Mohamedulla | 1756 |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 02 July 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
 2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): NONE.
 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
 7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: NONE.

Claim(s) objected to: NONE.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-8, 10-19 and 23-26.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: NONE.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant argues that Gemmink does not teach or suggest forming a transparent protective coating on the photomask pattern. However, as shown in Gemmink, the protective coating is on the photomask pattern because it covers and is above the photomask pattern. The present claims do not require that the protective coating touch the photomask pattern.

Applicant argues that the rejection of claim 18 is inappropriate because the filing date of Levinson is after the filing date of the provisional application. However, claim 18 is drawn to the use of a pellicle. The provisional application does not teach, suggest, discuss or enable the use of a pellicle in any way. Therefore, Levinson is available as a reference.

The arguments with respect to claim 4 are drawn to newly recited limitations that change the scope of the claim and require a new search and/or consideration. Applicant argues that Gemmink nor Tzu teach a protective layer formed in a trench. However, Gemmink in view of Tzu teaches the recited limitation. Tzu teaches a pattern including a trench and Gemmink teaches the protective coating is over the pattern. The references are both drawn to exposure masks and it would be obvious to use Tzu as Tzu teaches flexibility as described in the last Office action.

Therefore, Applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

Saleha R.
MOHAMEDULLA, SALEHA R.
PATENT EXAMINER
8/2/04